

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-8007
(916) 653-0989 FAX
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov



BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
December 5, 2012

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Dixon, Chairman
Bruce Saito
Mark Andre
Richard Wade
J. Keith Gilles
Jim Ostrowski
Susan Britting
Mike Miles

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Matthew Dias, Executive Officer, Forester's Licensing
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Ken Pimlott, Director
Bill Snyder, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Giny Chandler, Chief Counsel
Russ Henly, Asst. Deputy Director, Resource Protection
Dean Cromwell, Chief of Planning and Risk Analysis
Pete Cafferata, Forest Hydrologist

The Board's Mission:

To lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

Call to Order

Chairman Dixon called the December 5, 2012 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session

No Executive Session

Approval of Minutes

Deferred until January Board meeting.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman.

Report of the Director/Department. Ken Pimlott - Full Report available on the Board's website.

- End to fire season in the Sierras and north. Southern California is still in transition. 2012 fire season ended with approximately 6,000 fires, 27,000 acres burned, compared to 4,400 fires, 56,000 acres burned in 2011. Cal Fire is pleased with the coordination and success working with forest industries and timber companies through lessons learned this season. There are issues they would like to work on for next fire season regarding deployment. The department has been working in particular with their Federal partners to engage them in early season to use the MOU with the California Forestry Association, to bring forestry agencies on board as a part of the process as well.
- Cal Fire has been assisting with flood control through the mission tasking process from the governor's office and Cal EMA. Hand crews have been assisting in parts of northern California.
- The department is dealing with staffing changes in the succession process. Chief John Ferrara, San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit retired in December, they will appoint an acting Unit Chief in the interim. Tim Streblow, Sonoma Lake - Napa Unit also retired, Eric Hoffman will be replacing him as Unit Chief. Shana Jones, Santa Clara Unit, was appointed Administration Staff Chief to the Northern Region.
- A new GSOB find is being monitored in Idyllwild, Riverside County. The department will keep the Board updated on any spread for possible actions that may be required in the future.
- VTPEIR has been submitted to the state clearing house for review.
- Continued work with CDCR on agreements with local governments on the Conservation Camp Program. Will keep the Board updated as it develops over the next several months.
- The department is actively working with the Forest Service on the Federal Aviation Program and Large Airtanker Strategy that the Forest Service released in February. The department is providing information on Cal Fire's aviation program and concerns of what they feel is appropriate for federal aviation assets in the state as well as other states to continue to support that program. The outlook for federal airtankers is not optimistic for the coming fire season. Bids on the new generation airtanker have been held up with bid protests. In the interim the department is working with the legacy airtankers. 2013 may not prove to have a new suite of aircraft available and the department will work with what's available. Senator McCain is proposing legislation to transfer up to fourteen C27 aircraft to the Forest Service. The aircraft will then be repurposed to 1,800 gallon airtankers.
- Continued work with partner agencies, Administration and the Department of Finance, implementing the provisions of AB 1492. The department is waiting for the January 10, budget to determine the number of positions and how the fund transfers will occur from the General Fund to the Fee based fund from the lumber assessment. Will keep the Board updated on the outcome.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator.

Report of Executive Officer.

- Will provide the Board with a draft copy of the Priorities report in January, still seeking input from Board members as to what they would like included in the report.
- Will be conducting interviews to fill the SRA Office Technician position.
- Will attend the Fire Plan Workshop in Lone.
- A resolution was brought before the Board for consideration and approval, honoring Steve Straub who recently passed away.

Report of the Standing Committees

Forest Practice, Mark Andre, Chair

Northern Spotted Owl Rule

12-05-01 Member Andre moved to put out for 45 day notice, amendment to definition Activity Center 895.1 for Northern Spotted Owl. Member Wade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- The committee has one issue to resolve on the Modified Timer Harvest plan; they will present it to the Board at the January meeting.
- Reviewed and Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Class II Large Rules Text.
- Reviewed and Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Road Rules Text.

Resource Protection, Jim Ostrowski

No action items

- Reviewed draft changes to current nursery policy. Although the department does not have an operating nursery program, there is still a demand for seedlings. Chris Zimny is working with state and federal agencies to coordinate with nurseries and landowners to produce seedlings. The committee has revised policy language that will be brought before the Board for their consideration in January.
- The VTPEIR is out for 45 day notice.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

- Forest Pest Council-

- California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) – Katie Palmieri

- ***Phytophthora ramorum* Hazard and Risk to the Eastern US - Establishment of *P. ramorum*** in the Appalachian Mountains would pose the greatest threat to vegetation in the Eastern U.S., according to a Hazard map developed by modelers out of Chris Gilligan's lab at Cambridge University. The Hazard map represents the spatial distribution of Hazard, not risk. The Cambridge modelers explain that a Hazard map shows the importance of each site in terms of that site's impact on a potential future epidemic. The value of Hazard at any location in the map is a measure of the damage that would be done if that particular site became infected.
- **The goldspotted oak borer, *Agrilus auroguttatus*, was found for the first time in Riverside County** in a recently killed California black oak tree in the mountain community of Idyllwild. The November detection represents the first long-distance movement of the beetle in California from its known area of infestation in San Diego County, 40 miles to the south. It is believed to have made the

jump to Idyllwild via infested firewood. The infested tree has been removed; surveys are underway to determine the extent of the infestation.

- **Howard Kuljian, his wife Mary Scott, and their son Gregory passed away on November 24th** after a tragic accident at Big Lagoon beach in Humboldt County. They are survived by their daughter Olivia. A fire ecologist at Six Rivers National Forest, Howard's work on Sudden Oak Death as it relates to fire has been a valuable resource. He, his wife, and son will be missed.
- **Monitoring Study Group- Pete Cafferata (Full report can be found on the BOF website)**
- The next MSG meeting will be held December 12th, in Willows at Granzella's. Two main agenda items are:
 - A presentation by Ms. Karen Larsen, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento, titled "Developing the Biological Objectives Regulatory Framework."
 - A presentation by Ms. Sarah Martin, Ph.D. candidate, UC Merced, on "Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) Water Team Field Activities, Methods, and Results" (water quality and quantity monitoring work conducted in the Tahoe and Sierra National Forests).
- The review draft version of the VTAC's guidance document was sent out to reviewers on October 30th. The plan is to present the document to the Board at the January 2013 meeting.
- **Yearly summary information for MSG activities.** The MSG will have met four times by the end of the calendar year, which is our long-term average over the past approximately 20 years. CAL FIRE/BOF/Monitoring Study Group (MSG) main projects are:
 - Evaluating FPR implementation and effectiveness (FORPRIEM).
 - Cooperative instream monitoring projects to evaluate FPR effectiveness at the project scale and/or trend monitoring.
- FORPRIEM update
Random 10% sample of THPs completed since July 1, 2008. Random sample in a THP of one road segment, one riparian zone segment, and two watercourse crossings.
- **Research and Science Committee- George Gentry**
- No report.
- **Committee on Criminal Trespass- George Gentry**
- No report
- **Range Management Advisory Committee- Matt Dias**
- Attended RMAC meeting, the focus of discussion was the structure of the committee in light of Mel Thompson's resignation as the committee's Chairman. A decision was made to move forward with a Co-Chair position with two existing members, Lisa Osterholm and Mark Horny in the interim. Looking to fulfill the remaining positions on the committee. Bart Kremers will fill in as Vice Chair in the interim.
- Discussed the Priorities Report, 2013.
- There was a presentation by Cal Fire on the VTPEIR. The committee will review the VTPEIR and provide comments to the Board.
- **Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Matt Dias**
- There are currently 19 RPFs and CRMs that have defaulted on license renewal fee payment.

- The Office of Professional Foresters Registration notes the RECENT PASSING of the following Registered Professional Foresters:

Steve Staub	RPF 1911
George Belden	RPF 1649
- There are 1228 valid RPF's and 76 valid CRM's
- Professional Forester Examining Committee Board Appointments:

Bill Frost	CRM M8
Gerald Jensen	RPF 1036
Tom Osipowich	RPF 1767

12-05-02 Member Ostrowski moved to re-appoint members to PFEC. Member Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

HEARING: "State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Benefit Fee, 2012"

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), Chapter 13 Adopt:

- § 1665.1. Authority.
- § 1665.2. Definitions.
- § 1665.3. Determination of Eligible Habitable Structure.
- § 1665.4. Imposition of the Benefit Fee.
- § 1665.5. Request for Review and Refunds.
- § 1665.6. Fee Structure.
- § 1665.7. Fee Exemptions.
- § 1665.8. Grant Program.

Executive Officer Gentry began by providing an overview of the regulation. In particular, the regulation needs to be adopted on a permanent basis soon, or it will expire. Given the uncertainty of a quorum in January, Mr. Gentry recommended the Board adopt the noticed regulation today, and consider additional changes in the near future.

Public Comment

Howard Green- Expressed concerns definitions applied to habitable structure, and the differentiation between apartments and condominiums. He recommended to the Board that condos be looked at in the same way as apartments for billing purposes, since the structure type is the same.

Darren Spellman- Supervisor, Calaveras County- County opposes the fee, and finds the issue scientifically indefensible. He stated that lack of management and harvest were causing greater problems with fuel loading.

Erin Gilbert- Representing San Diego County- In addition to continued opposition to the fee, expressed concerns with some areas not receiving the deduction for local fire protection they deserved.

Les Baugh- Representing RCRC- Stated that Cal Fire is a statewide agency, not just rural, and the fee falls disproportionality on poorer counties. He also said that this fee is a threat to the mutual aid system of California. He felt that the fee should be repealed entirely.

Karl Weiland- El Dorado County Tax Assessor- Expressed concerns over mobile and manufactured homes and their classification. He feels manufactured homes should be removed from consideration. He also stated that the thirty day response time was insufficient for owners. He also expressed concern over the difference between effective date and lien date.

Skip Daum- Community Associations Institute- He expressed concerns over the 30 day response time. He stated that condominiums should receive different consideration, as they are fundamentally different than typical homes.

12-05-03 Member Britting moved to close public hearing. Member Andre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board members had a general discussion about the comments. There was concern expressed over the 30 day period, and the issue related to condominiums. It was agreed to continue to evaluate those issues.

12-05-04 Member Andre moved to adopt State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Benefit Fee 2012, as described in the 45 day notice, and to direct the Executive Officer to provide a review of the following issues for January: 1. Condo vs. apartment, 2. effective date vs. lien date, 3. grant program implementation, 4. Review of solutions to increase 30 day appeal period. Member Saito seconded the motion.

Chair Dixon called for a roll call vote:

Ostrowski	No
Saito	Yes
Britting	Yes
Andre	Yes
Gilless	Yes
Miles	Yes
Wade	Yes
Dixon	Yes

The motion passed 7 to 1.

Board 2012 Regulation and Priorities Review

The Board entertained further discussion on its priorities for 2012. The Executive Officer outlined the major priorities for the Board:

- AB 1492 Lumber Assessment
- SRA Prevention Fee
- Road Rules
- Small Landowner regulatory improvement
- Stewardship Lands, State Forests
- PRC 4290, Safety Element Review
- Vegetation Treatment Program
- Research and Science Committee/Effectiveness Monitoring
- Cumulative Effects

Board members also expressed a desire to request additional resources for the Board to pursue these issues.

Presentation of the 2012 Forestry Challenge Winners. Diane Dealey Neill, Organizer.

The Forestry Challenge is an environmental stewardship education event for high school students. Students develop a land restoration plan for judging, and must explain how their plans safeguard forest and watershed health. This years' overall winner was Anderson New Tech High School. The students made a presentation to the Board regarding their management plan recommendations.

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers annual meeting will be held January 15 – 17, they will be celebrating 40 years, a variety of events and special guest speakers are scheduled.

New and Unfinished business

None

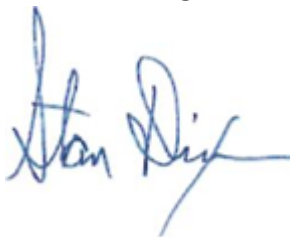
Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



George D. Gentry
Executive Officer



Stan Dixon
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.